

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.     A cordless blind comprising:  
2                 a headrail;  
3                 a bottom rail suspended from the headrail by a first cord and  
4     a second cord;  
5                 a window covering disposed between the headrail and the  
6     bottom rail;  
7                 a drive actuator including:  
8                     a spring motor, and  
9                     a spool for accumulating the cords coupled to the  
10                     spring motor; and,  
11                 a one-way tensioning mechanism, wherein the tensioning  
12     mechanism is configured to provide a resistant force on movement of one  
13     of the first and second cords in one direction.

1           2.     The cordless blind of Claim 1, wherein the one-way  
2     tensioning mechanism comprises:  
3                 a mechanism bracket, with the mechanism bracket having a  
4     base and a first upright and a second upright coupled to the base, with  
5     each upright defining an aperture and further, each upright including a  
6     pawl, with one pawl aligned in facing relationship with the other pawl ;  
7     and,  
8                 a pulley mounted between the two uprights, with the pulley  
9     having a cylinder with a side wall on each end of the cylinder, each  
10     sidewall having an inner face and an outer face, with each outer face  
11     having a plurality of ratchet teeth configured to selectively engage the  
12     pawl on each upright.

1           3.     The cordless blind of Claim 2, wherein the pulley is  
2     configured to move within the apertures to one of a free-wheeling  
3     position and a stopped position.

1           4.     The cordless blind of Claim 3, wherein the aperture in the  
2     first upright is sized different from the aperture in the second upright.

1           5.     The cordless blind of Claim 2, wherein the base and two  
2     uprights are formed as a single, integral piece.

1           6.     The cordless blind of Claim 1, including a second one-way  
2     tensioning mechanism configured to provide a resistant force on  
3     movement in one direction of the other cord.

1           7.     The cordless blind of Claim 1, wherein the drive actuator is  
2     mounted in the headrail.

1           8.     A one-way tensioning mechanism in a cordless blind with the  
2     cordless blind having a headrail, a bottom rail suspended from the headrail  
3     by at least a first cord and a second cord, a window covering disposed  
4     between the headrail and the bottom rail, a drive actuator including a  
5     spring motor, and a spool for accumulating the cords coupled to the  
6     spring motor, the one-way tensioning mechanism coupled to one of the  
7     first cord and the second cord, the one-way tensioning mechanism  
8     comprising:

9                 a mechanism bracket, with the mechanism bracket having a  
10    base and a first upright and a second upright coupled to the base, with  
11    each upright defining an aperture and further, each upright including a  
12    pawl, with one pawl aligned in facing relationship with the other pawl ;  
13    and,

14 a pulley mounted between the two uprights, with the pull y  
15 having a cylinder with a side wall on each end of the cylinder, each  
16 sidewall having an inner face and an outer face, with each outer face  
17 having a plurality of ratchet teeth configured to selectively engage the  
18 pawl on each upright,

19 wherein the tensioning mechanism is configured to provide a  
20 resistant force on movement of one of the first and second cords in one  
21 direction.

1 9. The one-way tensioning mechanism of Claim 8, wherein the  
2 spool is configured to move within the apertures to one of a free-wheeling  
3 position and a stopped position.

1 10. The one-way tensioning mechanism of Claim 9, wherein the  
2 aperture in the first upright is sized different from the aperture in the  
3 second upright.

1 11. The one-way tensioning mechanism of Claim 8, wherein the  
2 base and two uprights are formed as a single, integral piece.

1 12. The one-way tensioning mechanism of Claim 8, including a  
2 second one-way tensioning mechanism configured to provide a resistant  
3 force on movement in one direction of the other cord.

1 13. The one-way tensioning mechanism of Claim 8, wherein the  
2 drive actuator is mounted in the headrail.

1 14. A cordless blind comprising:  
2 a headrail;  
3 a bottom rail suspended from the headrail by a first cord and  
4 a second cord;

5 a window covering disposed between the headrail and the  
6 bottom rail;

7 a means for actuating coupled to the cords; and,

8 a means for providing a resistant force on movement of one  
9 of the first and second cords in one direction.

1 15. The cordless blind of Claim 14, wherein means for providing  
2 a resistant force comprises:

3 a means for supporting, including a means for engaging; and, <sup>28</sup>

4 a means for tensioning <sup>25</sup> coupled to the means for supporting,  
5 with the means for tensioning configured to selectively engage the means  
6 for engaging.

1 16. The cordless blind of Claim 15, wherein the means for  
2 tensioning is configured to move within the means for supporting to one  
3 of a free-wheeling position and a stopped position.

1 17. The cordless blind of Claim 16, wherein the means for  
2 supporting includes a first aperture and a second aperture with the first  
3 aperture sized different from the second aperture. <sup>25 for 26</sup> <sup>33</sup>

1 18. The cordless blind of Claim 14, including a second means for  
2 tensioning configured to provide a resistant force on movement in one  
3 direction of the other cord.

1 19. The cordless blind of Claim 14, wherein the means for  
2 actuating is mounted in the headrail.

1 20. The cordless blind of Claim 14, including at least one  
2 additional means for actuating mounted in the headrail and coupled to the  
3 cords.

1           21.    A method of providing a resistant force in a cordless blind,  
2   the method comprising:  
3                providing a cordless blind, the blind having a headrail, a  
4   bottom rail suspended from the headrail by a first cord and a second cord,  
5   a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail, a  
6   drive actuator including a spring motor and spool for accumulating the  
7   cords;  
8                installing a one-way tensioning mechanism;  
9                winding one of the first cord and second cord around a  
10   pulley, having a plurality of ratchet teeth, mounted in the one-way  
11   tensioning mechanism; and  
12               providing at least one pawl on the tensioning mechanism,  
13   with the pawl aligned to selectively engage the ratchet teeth of the  
14   pulley;  
15               wherein the pulley is configured to move within the  
16   tensioning mechanism to one of a free-wheeling position and a stopped  
17   position.

1           22.    The method of claim 21, including the steps of installing a  
2   second one-way tensioning mechanism and winding the other of the first  
3   and second cord around a second pulley, having a plurality of ratchet  
4   teeth, mounted in the second one-way tensioning mechanism.

1           23.    The method of claim 21, wherein the one-way tensioning  
2   mechanism is mounted in the headrail.

1           24.   A cordless blind comprising:  
2                   a headrail;  
3                   a bottom rail operatively coupled to the headrail with at least  
4 one cord;  
5                   a window covering disposed between the headrail and the  
6 bottom rail; and  
7                   a pulley operatively engaged with the cord and being  
8 rotatable in only one direction.

1           25.   The cordless blind of claim 24, wherein the pulley is  
2 mounted in a mechanism bracket, with the bracket configured for the  
3 pulley to move to one of a free-wheeling position and a stopped position.

1           26.   The cordless blind of claim 24, including a second cord  
2 attached to the bottom rail and operatively coupled to the headrail; and a  
3 second pulley operatively engaged with the second cord and being  
4 rotatable in only one direction.

1           27.   The cordless blind of claim 24, wherein the pulley is  
2 mounted in the headrail.

1           28.   A cordless blind comprising:  
2                   a headrail;  
3                   a bottom rail operatively coupled to the headrail with at least  
4 one cord;  
5                   a window covering disposed between the headrail and the  
6 bottom rail; and  
7                   a tensioner operatively engaged with the cord applying a first  
8 frictional force opposing movement of the cord in only one direction.

1        29.    The cordless blind of claim 27, including a second cord  
2    operatively coupled to the bottom rail and headrail; and a second  
3    tensioner operatively engaged with the second cord applying a second  
4    frictional force opposing movement of the second cord in only one  
5    direction.

1        30.    The cordless blind of claim 28, wherein the tensioner is  
2    mounted in the headrail.

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